

LEGISLATIVE SURVEY

10. Some lawmakers point to the initiative process as increasing the uncertainty in state government finances, while others seek to protect the political rights of the people. Do you support reforming or eliminating the initiative process?

- | | | |
|-----------------------|-----------------------|---|
| Voter 1 | Voter 2 | |
| <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | a) maintain the current system with no changes |
| <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | b) require more signatures before initiatives qualify for the ballot |
| <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | c) require that initiatives which mandate spending include revenue sources |
| <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | d) require that initiatives include information on the ballot about their costs |
| <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | e) eliminate the initiative process |

11. Which type of transportation spending, if any, would you like to see expanded through additional funding?

- | | | |
|-----------------------|-----------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Voter 1 | Voter 2 | |
| <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | a) increased highway maintenance |
| <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | b) new highway construction |
| <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | c) buses and rail |
| <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | d) commuter car pools and van pools |
| <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | e) none |

12. When voters rejected Referendum 51, many called for expanded accountability. Do you support a legislative proposal to enact transportation accountability measures this year, approve a 5 cent gas tax increase and provide for a public vote in 2004 for an additional 4 cent gas tax increase?

- | | | |
|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----|
| Voter 1 | Voter 2 | |
| <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | Yes |
| <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | No |

13. Gas tax revenues can only be used to maintain and expand our highway system. Would you support a 1 percent increase in the vehicle sales tax to fund mass transit and other transportation choices?

- | | | |
|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----|
| Voter 1 | Voter 2 | |
| <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | Yes |
| <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | No |

14. Legislators are weighing changes to our HOV system. Which of the following do you support?

- | | | |
|-----------------------|-----------------------|---|
| Voter 1 | Voter 2 | |
| <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | a) open HOV lanes to single occupant vehicles during non-rush hours |
| <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | b) allow single drivers to pay to use HOV lanes during rush hours |
| <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | c) turn all HOV lanes into general purpose lanes |
| <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | d) no changes to the current system |

15. Insurance premiums for doctors continue to rise dramatically due to the increase in number and cost of patient lawsuits. Would you support efforts to reduce doctors' medical malpractice insurance costs by limiting the punitive damages awarded to injured patients in malpractice lawsuits?

- | | | |
|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----|
| Voter 1 | Voter 2 | |
| <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | Yes |
| <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | No |

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2003 Legislative Report

For the 21st District

Senator Paul Shin

SURVEY OF STATE ISSUES INSIDE



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Dear Friends,

Our regular legislative session in Olympia is over half completed, and yet the biggest challenges and toughest decisions lie ahead. This brief update will outline some of the difficult choices before the Legislature and ask your opinion on the best way to proceed.

Our economy in Washington has been slow to recover from the national recession, the end of the technology boom and the effects of the terrorist attacks of Sept. 11th, 2001. Just as many families are struggling to balance their budgets, the state is also working to resolve a \$2.4 billion budget shortfall. This problem is central to every debate we have here in Olympia. We must close that gap, but we should avoid a general tax increase that would hurt economic growth during these tough times.

Olympia has many other tasks this session. We have yet to find a solution to our transportation quagmire. We must work to spur economic growth and promote international trade. We must support our children's education, from K-12 through university. And we must ensure the safety and health of our communities.

Please help me represent you better by telling me how you feel about issues before the Legislature. Fill out the enclosed survey and send it back to my Olympia office. I'll compile the results and report back in my next mailing. Thank you for the feedback.

Sincerely,

Paul Shin
 State Senator, 21st District

Please join us!

Town Meetings – March 29th

- 10:00 a.m. Edmonds-Woodway HS, Great Hall
7600 212th Street SW, Edmonds
- 1:00 p.m. Snohomish Fire District #1
12310 Meridian Avenue S, Everett

Please join my House colleagues and me to discuss the budget and other issues before the Legislature.

Balance the Budget

Nearly every sector of our economy has taken a hit, and our unemployment rate remains among the nation's highest. The economic decline has led to a budget shortfall of \$2.4 billion. While we must close this gap, a general tax increase at this time would put another brake on the economy. It would also be a profound mistake to cut or eliminate the very public services that more people rely on during these tough economic times. Every program has an advocate, and with so many competing interests, virtually every area of state government will be forced to make painful cuts. To mitigate those reductions, I believe we should review and prioritize all state programs that are currently on the books, and eliminate those that are not cost effective.

Promote jobs and economic growth

While we will close the budget gap this year, the larger and tougher question is how we get Washington's economy moving again. My fellow senators and I developed a jobs and economic growth package that would help get us back on track. We are the most international trade



dependent state in the nation, and I have introduced legislation (Senate Bill 5983) to ensure that foreign companies have better information about the benefits of doing business here in

Washington. I am also sponsoring a proposal (Senate Bill 5827) to bring together the hospitality and tourism industries with state and local governments to create a new international tourism center that can promote this critical industry. My job training bill (Senate Bill 5984) would expand funding to help workers gain the skills that make them attractive employees for new businesses. These changes could spur economic development and bring more jobs to our state.

Get transportation moving

Referendum 51 to fund transportation improvements failed miserably last year. We must listen to the voters who tell us that we need more accountability in our Department of Transportation, and I strongly support the passage of accountability legislation this year. I have also introduced legislation (Senate Bill 5593) to approve a 5 cent gas tax in Olympia this year, and provide for a public vote in 2004 for an additional 4 cent increase after our accountability measures have taken effect.



Brightwater

King County's move to construct the Brightwater water treatment plant in Snohomish County has caused irreparable harm to people's trust in government. The proposal to site the facility on the waterfront in Edmonds was anti-democratic, would have put our natural environment at risk and threatened to create an eyesore. Thankfully, it appears that the facility will not be located in Edmonds, and yet, another community in Snohomish County is likely to be chosen. I have introduced legislation (Senate Bill 5078) to prohibit King County from launching any such projects unless the plan has been reviewed and approved by the local jurisdiction involved.

Improve children's safety

One primary responsibility of the Legislature is to improve public safety of our communities, and I believe that we must be especially concerned with the safety of Washington's children. I have introduced legislation (Senate Bill 5239) that expands speed zones around school crosswalks and playgrounds to protect our children from being struck by cars. Also, I am proposing legislation (Senate Bill 5234) to require kids to wear helmets when skateboarding at public skate parks. These two changes could protect children from serious injuries.



Support education

More than 1 million children now attend our public schools. Supporting their education is one of our primary responsibilities as legislators, and will be a priority for me as we write our final budget. Students at our public universities and colleges were asked pay a 16 percent increase in tuition last year and 9 percent increases in each of the next two years. These increases are nothing more than tax increases on our students, and I will work to halt similar future increases. I have also introduced legislation (Senate Bill 5385) to study the possibility of including community and technical colleges in the current K-12 funding system, which would extend basic education to K-14.



Survey questions

1. Much of the Legislature's attention is consumed by the work to close the \$2.4 billion budget shortfall. So far, discussion has focused on balancing the budget through cuts to the Basic Health Plan, education spending and other programs. If you were in charge, what would be the main strategy you would use to balance the budget?

- Voter 1 Voter 2
- a) cut spending
- b) increase revenues
- c) a blend of cuts and revenue increases

2. During budget negotiations, many diverse interests compete for scarce resources. How do you rank the following priorities of state government, from 1 (most important) to 5 (least important).

- | Voter 1 | Voter 2 | |
|-----------------------|-----------------------|--------------------------|
| 1 2 3 4 5 | 1 2 3 4 5 | |
| <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | a) education |
| <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | b) transportation |
| <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | c) environment |
| <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | d) job creation/training |
| <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | e) public safety |

3. Many Washingtonians remain concerned about the efficiency of current government operations. Do you support expanded independent performance audits to review how effectively and efficiently agencies accomplish their missions?

- Voter 1 Voter 2
- Yes
- No

4. The expansion of gambling has received some attention from lawmakers as an additional revenue source. Others fear these revenues come from those citizens least able to afford it. Would you support allowing new forms of gambling and larger casinos to generate \$250 million in new state revenues?

- Voter 1 Voter 2
- Yes
- No

5. Do you think it's fair that tribal casinos have more flexibility and independence in running their casinos than private operators?

- Voter 1 Voter 2
- Yes
- No

Survey Instructions:

Shade circles like this: ●
Not like this: ⊗

Record your responses by shading the entire circle of your answer. Record additional comments on a separate piece of paper and include it when you return this survey.

When you have completed your survey, please return it in a stamped envelope to: **Senator Paull Shin, P.O. Box 40421, Olympia, WA 98504-0421.**

6. The citizens of Washington passed initiatives to reduce K-12 class sizes (I-728) and to increase teacher pay (I-732). In the 2003-2005 biennium, the cost to fully implement those initiatives is \$467 million. As we struggle to balance the budget, what should the Legislature do?

- Voter 1 Voter 2
- a) continue to reduce class sizes
- b) continue to improve teacher salaries
- c) continue to implement both initiatives
- d) put further improvements on hold until 2005-2007

7. Charter schools are back on the radar screen this year, despite two recent failed voter initiatives. Advocates argue that charter schools provide additional choice for students. Opponents point to the broad flexibility school districts already have to develop alternative schools and specialized curriculum. Do you support establishing charter schools?

- Voter 1 Voter 2
- Yes
- No

8. As the number of children in our schools continues to grow every year, some local school districts have difficulty funding school maintenance and locally-designed education programs. Currently, school levies require 60 percent approval for passage. Do you support lowering that threshold to a simple majority of 50 percent?

- Voter 1 Voter 2
- Yes
- No

9. Our state continues to move forward with education reform. In 2008, high school seniors will be required to pass the WASL tests before they are issued their diplomas. Which option do you support?

- Voter 1 Voter 2
- a) maintain current WASL testing system
- b) maintain testing, but eliminate WASL graduation requirement
- c) eliminate all WASL tests